



July 2016
No. 343

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:
email: bromleyfoe@gmail.com, website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

July Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Sally Pennington, Orpington Priory Regeneration Project

Come and hear plans for the use of the Borough's oldest listed building and former museum to be given new life as a community hub.

Tuesday 5th July – 7.30pm

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 10TH JULY *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Please note the earlier than usual deadline (due to holidays)

Diary dates:

Jul 5 (Tues)	Bromley FoE's July meeting: Orpington Priory Regeneration Project
Jul 16 (Sat)	WILPF Garden Party, St Mary Cray – see below and page 14
Jul 20 (Wed)	Fun Day for children at Whitehall Recreation Ground, Southlands Road, Bromley. 1.30- 4pm (see below)
Aug 2 (Tues)	Bromley FoE's August meeting: Nature Quiz and Campaigning
Aug 29 (Mon)	Cudham Village Fete (FoE stall)
Sept 6 (Tues)	Bromley FoE's September meeting: Asad Rehman (postponed from May)

Fun Day for children at Whitehall Recreation Ground

Organised by Friends of Whitehall Recreation Ground for the pupils of Raglan Primary school. It is the last day of the Summer Term and pupils come straight from school to the park to celebrate.

We plan to have activities about bees and butterflies for the children to be involved in. Other things going on will be a bouncy castle, games and snacks to buy. If you would like to help on the stall, we will be setting up from 12.30.

WILPF's Annual GARDEN PARTY ... (see page 14)

... will be held this year at 2.00pm on Saturday 16th July at the home of Sheila Triggs, 3 Derry Downs, St Mary Cray, BR5 4DT (tel 01689 837848).

The Speaker this year (at 2.30pm) is MIA TAMARIN : "The Israel/Palestine Conflict and Peace Activism – Reflections of an Israeli Conscientious Objector"

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth*

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by ***** SUNDAY 10TH JULY *****

by post to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS
by phone to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: johnstreet@gn.apc.org.

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons.

Please note the earlier than usual deadline (due to holidays)

June meeting report – Sue and John Boccock

The challenges faced by Thames Water

Our speaker for our June meeting was Simon Hughes Head of Strategy and Planning for Thames Water. Thames Water is the largest water company in the UK serving 14 million customers.

Simon had previously worked as a freshwater ecologist with the Environment Agency with whom he had spent 25 years . London is the most densely populated capital city in Europe and has less rainfall than Nairobi and the Netherlands,. It has a diverse catchment area where climate change with milder wetter winters and hotter drier summers is affecting water usage patterns. Demand for water has risen since privatization.

Thames Water has increased spending on services and infrastructure to improve the quality and reliability of drinking water. This has led to the construction of the London Ring Main in 1994. Privatization has also enabled Thames Water to invest heavily in sewage treatment works improvements. This has helped to transform the river Thames into the cleanest metropolitan river in the world. A few decades ago the river was biologically dead. Now the river is now home to a wide variety of fish species including bass, flounder and salmon.

Our water comes from a variety of sources; the Thames, the River Lea, groundwater, much of which is pumped into and stored in reservoirs.

Asked by Simon how much water storage we had in London, we were surprised to learn, whereas Sidney Australia has seven years, London has only 100 days, just over three months water in reserve.

As the population grows, it currently stands at 9 million, so demand for water also rises. It is estimated that we shall need 415 litres per person per day. People are being encouraged to use less water; not to clean one's teeth under a running tap, replacing old flush toilets with dual flush systems.

There is a great need to reduce leakage, but Thames water is dealing with an antiquated system of metal pipes which are expensive to replace. Another cost cutting measure has been metering. By 2020 it is hoped that 50% of the population will have a water meter and will then be able to better regulate their water usage.

Developments - A large reservoir is being built in Oxfordshire, holding 150 billion litres of water and costing £1billion. A process of reverse osmosis will enable the creation of pure water. This has not been universally welcomed as it involves the demolition of some homes.

Simon's talk gave us a most interesting insight into some of the ongoing complexities faced by Thames Water including Climate Change, increasing population and the escalating costs of new technologies.

BASECAMP Overview – Sheila Brown

Basecamp has now become an established annual event, taking the place of the former Local Groups Conference which used to be held on a university campus. It has become a more relaxed gathering with an open-air feel and is now open to anyone interested or involved in the environmental movement.

It is based at a beautiful old youth hostel in the heart of the peak district, with talks being held in marquees and yurts. The atmosphere thus created has a kind of festival feel to it, and there is plenty of music and creative stuff going on as well as the talks, lectures and workshops you would expect.

What is difficult, given the huge smorgasbord of choice, is deciding which to select and these choices can be really difficult. Some of the many activities on offer which I did not manage to do were banner and mask making, wildflower walk, bean can lantern making, storytelling, open mic, jewellery refashioning, soul stepping dance moves, spoon carving the list goes on and on.

Going to too many talks and workshops can give you 'information overload' so it's good being able to have some 'downtime' and participate in things like yoga or meditation, which this time I did manage to do.

This year's keynote speaker was Shami Chakrabarti, formerly leader of the campaign group Liberty, who gave the John Preedy Memorial Lecture entitled *Campaigning to save the world*.

Shami stated that powerful people like to divide and rule, and only a handful of people own all the resources. She pointed to the power of language in shaping attitudes, for example, refugees from conflict becoming known instead as 'asylum seekers' and then, more recently 'migrants', somewhat de-humanising them and thus influencing people's perception.

Shami also emphasised the importance of using humour in putting over our message.

Juliet Davenport was the other headline speaker – founder of Good Energy, one of the UK's first entirely renewable electricity supply and generation companies. They were very prominent at Basecamp, with a stall giving away shopping bags and mugs as well as information. Unfortunately I did not get to Juliet's talk but was told it was very inspirational.

The Earthmover Awards, rewarding people and groups for outstanding campaigning, are always a highlight of the weekend. The weekend concluded on the Sunday afternoon with a big action to Save Druridge Bay from threatened opencast mining.

Worthwhile, inspiring, great networking opportunities, educational, wonderful outdoor setting, meeting up with old friends, loads going on – all these describe a weekend which will live long in our memories.

BASECAMP Overview – Sam Gee

Amidst the stunningly beautiful landscapes of the Peak District, just over 450 FoE activists, supporters and local group members enjoyed a truly inspirational weekend at FoE's flagship event, Basecamp, from the 3rd to the 5th June this year.

This was FoE's fourth Basecamp and, based on feedback, the best yet! Basecamp is a chance for like-minded people from across the UK (and beyond) to come together to celebrate last year's success, discuss plans going forward, share what it means to be FoE and, most importantly, to celebrate grassroots activism.

As a very new member of Bromley FoE, and by far the youngest (age 13), it has been a new and exciting but very fast-paced journey into the world of environmental activism. My family and I have long been supporters of the environmental movement, but have done very little about it, until recently.

This was my first Basecamp, and I was expecting it to be great. I didn't get great – I got amazing. It was fascinating to hear from people who have exactly the same ideologies as I do, and who are doing amazing things for people and the environment.

The event was comprised of more than 140 workshops in total over the long weekend. Often there were about 8 different options for each hour slot! It was extremely difficult to choose, so my dad and I tried to go to different ones so that we could share what we had learnt. I was the only under-18 at any of the workshops but everyone

was very welcoming and they made it a pleasant, supportive environment.

The workshops ranged from creative activities like wooden mushroom carving and making clothes buttons from natural materials, to discussions on where FoE is at with its key campaigns on fossil fuels, nature, and air quality.

On Saturday night, there was a ceilidh dance, nicknamed "the Five Years Frack Free Dust-Mask-erade Ball" with live music, for which people painted their own dust masks. Over the weekend, there were three keynote speakers – Craig Bennett, CEO of FoE; Shami Chakrabarti, former director of Liberty, and Juliet Davenport, founder and CEO of Good Energy, a British 100% renewable alternative to the Big Six.

There were possibly more workshops on fracking than any other topic, which was great for me, as my main interest is in renewable energy and how it can be used to push society towards a fossil free future. Other workshops focussed on topics like community energy, bees, tax evasion, opencast coal-mining, and digital campaigning.

The weekend was fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable. For next year's Basecamp, FoE UK put in a bid to have the FoE Europe AGM coincide with Basecamp – and we won it! This means that next year, there will be people from FoE groups from across the continent coming to the Peak District for Basecamp.

/continued on next page

BASECAMP – Tax Activism – Sheila Brown

Tax activism with action aid. Make tax fair. Everywhere.

We have all become aware of stories about tax dodging by companies like Starbucks, Amazon and, more recently, Microsoft. But it's not just the UK which feels the draught from tax avoidance. Developing countries lose billions of pounds a year because of unfair tax rules.

Globally, developing countries receive \$135 billion in aid. But they lose \$200 billion in tax!!

Large companies choose to locate in countries which enable them to reduce the amount of tax they pay. Holland has a low rate of corporation tax and therefore many companies are based there. Tax is more sustainable than aid – so how much better it would be if the tax were paid and the need for aid would reduce.

Certain companies were mentioned. Paladin Energy, an Australian based uranium mining and production multinational company avoided \$43 million by way of a tax dodge via the Netherlands, which has a low rate of corporation tax which has led to many companies being based there.

SAB Miller, the second biggest brewing company in the world, has a massive 65 tax haven companies and has avoided several million dollars of tax in different African countries. Glencore, an Anglo-Swiss multinational commodity trading and mining company headquartered in Switzerland denied Zambia tax equivalent to double the country's

health budget. Associated British Foods, a company known to us in the UK, pays less tax than small market traders.

Action Aid was involved in a tax campaign ahead of the 2015 General Election along with Oxfam and other agencies. The Conservatives did not sign up, but other parties did – but we know who went on to win this election. Tax is intended to be used to fund public services, and it is girls and women who are disproportionately disadvantaged with regard to education, healthcare and transport, often putting them at unacceptable risk.

Malawi is possibly the poorest country in the world. A school there with 1,074 pupils has only 12 teachers and 8 student teachers, with 285 children on one class. There is also a shortage of teacher accommodation, insufficient class rooms and virtually no office space. This is the kind of challenge which Action Aid really wants to address. There is an old treaty between the UK and Malawi which effectively gives away Malawi's tax rights. Action Aid's campaign 'Make Tax Fair' is aimed at addressing this and other issues.

BASECAMP Overview – Sam Gee, *continued*

FoE is therefore looking into how to expand the capacity of Basecamp to take even more people, but, even so, be sure to book early for another long weekend that promises to be just as amazing, if not more so, than this year.

BASECAMP – Craig Bennett’s keynote speech

A new vision for Friends of the Earth

Sheila Brown writes: It’s almost a year since Craig took on the Chief Executive role on 1st July last year. He wants to see the organisation go from good to great. He asked, what is the fundamental essence of FoE? We are a community of like-minded people and the vast majority of FoE’s resources lie with local groups, national supporters, activists and FoE International – all these make up FoE

With hindsight, Craig felt FoE should have concentrated on community energy projects instead of pushing onshore wind, but we should celebrate that 24% of the country’s energy came from renewable last year.

He would like to see more diverse community groups within FoE, e.g. groups of cyclists, teachers, a Bangladeshi group, LGBT, workers in the City. The emphasis is changing with less emphasis on Westminster and Whitehall and more on the people ‘out there’. Members of all the different FoE Europe countries will be invited to next year’s Basecamp.

We could also celebrate 5 years of being frack-free, but need to keep campaigning. FoE has led the way with disruptive innovation, e.g. Recycling in the ‘90s when it was a way-out idea but has now become mainstream. Government caught up with the people. We invented social enterprise and the idea of setting up community energy schemes.

Craig wants to see by 2030 the environment flourishing and safer food. In the next five years he’d like to see

the UK fossil fuel free, including Wales and Ireland. He wants to see nature back in the centre of people’s lives; there is a proven connection with health; health and environment work together.

Craig’s interest in environmental campaigning started years ago with defending Rainham Marshes which were under enormous threat. Now the area is a nature reserve, boasting a diversity of birds and wildlife, including water vole.

BASECAMP- An introduction to Rewilding

Sheila Brown writes: Brenda Pollack, well known to many of us, is currently seconded to a project “Rewilding Britain” aimed at encouraging things to revert to nature and re-connecting people with nature. Successes so far include re-introduction of the beaver in Devon and Trees for Life – aiming to restore the Caledonian Forest.

Here in the South of England the River Wandle has been restored to its former glory as a beautiful chalk stream and the River Adur in Sussex is being restored to its natural meandering state in order to create a haven for plants, animals and people; seasonal flooding has been allowed to return, enabling the flora and fauna to make a comeback to the wetland environment.

The Wild Ennerdale project in the Lake District aims to allow the landscape to evolve more naturally, relying on natural processes to shape its landscape and ecology.

Airport expansion agreed +++ Biodiversity Group Forum

Airport expansion – Ray Watson writes: In less than an hour, Bromley Council's executive committee approved the basis of a controversial new lease for the company running Biggin Hill Airport.

The approval means that the airport will now be able to operate much longer hours, primarily early in the morning and late at night, something vehemently opposed by residents' groups and organisations such as Bromley FoE.

General approval for the new lease was passed in November but 18 major items had not been agreed by the council and the airport. The revised document was presented to the executive committee at its June meeting when a minority of councillors expressed doubts about the council's ability to enforce the terms of the lease, particularly in relation to noise controls.

One councillor called the airport 'this unruly tenant', while another said the airport would gain greatly from the longer operating hours but it would only mean extra noise and other disadvantages for residents. The council replied that it would be closely monitoring noise levels and, in extreme circumstances could forfeit the lease.

It was also disclosed that an application for a Judicial Review had been lodged with the High Court by residents of the borough who take the view that the council acted improperly in the council's consultation process.

When a vote was taken, four councillors were in favour of the new lease, one against with two abstentions.

Biodiversity Group Forum - Judy Palmer writes:

I attended the recent meeting of the Forum which was as interesting and varied as usual. And we were introduced to the new Landscape Group Biodiversity Advisor, Ian Wright, who has only been in place for a few weeks.

The owl survey is still on-going and a survey of the hedgehogs in the borough is also underway. Owls were chosen because their presence indicates the health of the surrounding environment because without good habitat which will support their prey (which includes wood mice, voles, small birds, worms and beetles), they cannot survive. This survey therefore highlights areas where we need to concentrate on maintaining and improving habitat.

Hedgehogs are thought to be declining significantly within the borough and by trying to find out where they are still present we hope to improve and link together areas of habitat where they remain and therefore improve numbers. Sightings can be recorded on the Orpington Field Club's website – www.orpingtonfieldclub.org.uk.

A number of other subjects were discussed, including the use of pesticides and the herbicide glyphosate; any invasive species sightings (if anyone wishes to see a list of them, it can be found in Table 7, page 117 of the Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan on the Council's website) and hedgerows in the borough, to name but a few.

Coolings stall report +++ Bee Count update

Annette Rose writes: Coolings Garden Centre very kindly let us have a pitch free of charge on the day of their Craft Show on June 18th. We were just outside the entrance to the craft show so there were lots of people walking by. The Orpington Bee Keepers were also on site.

Our theme for the day was bees, so we had a display of bee themed materials on one table, and on the other we had a bee breakfast pollination quiz. People had to guess which of the 10 foods needed bee pollination. The children in particular enjoyed this activity and it promoted lots of discussion with the adults too.

We had a good stream of members of the public visiting the stall and some interesting conversations. Some were interested in downloading the free Great British Bee Count App and wanted to record some bee sightings.

This App had been mentioned three times in Springwatch recently, which caused a lot of interest. We even had a go ourselves on my phone, making observations on the flowers nearby. Garden bumblebees and early bumblebees were counted several times. The main clue is in the colour of their bottoms!

The new bee materials were popular and included bee bingo cards, bee colouring cards and some good clear posters for identifying bees. The free wildflower seeds were in demand too. Several people expressed an interest in attending our meetings and took our membership leaflet.

Judy Palmer writes: Well, as I am writing this the **Bee Count** has still two weeks to run, so please do log onto TheGreatBritishBeeCount and help record the bees you are seeing.

Did you see Springwatch this year? Among the great shout-outs the presenters did for environmental groups and the work they do, the Friends of the Earth Bee Count was mentioned! We heard three – one in the main programme by Michaela Strachan showing the app live on air, and the bee count was mentioned twice in the Unsprung programmes.

All of this helped the total of bees counted so far to reach over 225,000. Isn't that amazing – and also amazingly, the surge of interest registering on the web site caused it to crash for a short while at one point. It was definitely *buzzing* then (sorry!).

Bromley Friends of the Earth members were up at Coolings recently (*see article elsewhere*) and being a nursery full of plants, there were lots of bees around, so Annette demonstrated how easy it was to use the bee app.

We have a stall at Keston on June 26th so potentially we can spread the word there too, but only for a few more days as the Bee Count finishes on June 30th. Lots of other local groups have been promoting the cause, including a Bee Fest from Oxford FoE which Chris Packham kindly dropped into!

Mutterings from the Millers - Chris Miller

We have been very pleased to see the sun and what a difference it has made to the crops although of course all that rain we have had helps too. The peas have grown 6" in the past week and the new variety of wheat named, sky fall, hasn't been affected by yellow rust and looks really strong. The ears on both wheat varieties are just emerging, we now wait for them to start flowering.

At this point we begin to monitor the rainfall, as this will give us a mycotoxin score, which then has to be recorded on the passport that goes with every lorry load of wheat from the farm. The grass for hay is growing at an amazing rate. The old saying wet May, long hay could be true this year.

The spring barley trial is progressing although a plant scientist from the plant breeders came from Norfolk to inspect the barley and found a small patch of the crop eaten by wireworm! There is no way of stopping this grub so he won. It is too early to see the difference in plant numbers and fertilizer amounts. Time will tell.

Phew! A decision has been made. As you know, after long deliberation, we have at last decided to go into the direct drilling method. Peter, our son, negotiated a deal with a dealership to buy our old equipment and purchase a new direct drill that will be assembled in Germany and will be delivered in time for the autumn drilling, hopefully.

I'll take a photo for you on its arrival. We will now be entering the 21st century, as we will be using GPS for

our drilling, spraying and fertilizing. Steve isn't too sure what to do but I'm sure Peter will lick him into shape.

A small group from the Friends of the Earth enjoyed a crop walk the other Saturday. They asked many questions and wondered about a bare circle in the wheat. They were amazed to discover that slugs had been the culprits, slugs not only like hostas!

It was a pleasure to share our knowledge with them and show a working farm so close to Bromley. They were able to see many skylarks rising from the soil and soar into the sky with their wonderful song.

The house martins have joined the swallows flying in and out of the barn and swifts can be seen overhead now. On the bird front, have you seen a Kite recently? We have seen one soaring over the farm and hear that one or two Chelsfield residents have seen it too. Interesting to see that they are coming this far up the country.

Next thing on the list is hay making, we may have started by the next report or shortly afterwards. This mixture of sun and rain, as long as it is not too heavy, is just right for us. A wet June keeps the corn in tune. I think Steve has a verse for every month!

Coolings stall – thanks. A big thank you to Anne for providing the gazebo and to Judy, Bill, Ray, Marina, Sue and John for helping on day.

Climate and Energy

Fracking

North Yorkshire County Council's decision to give permission to go ahead with fracking has most likely opened the floodgates to a sea of drilling rigs and boreholes in the Yorkshire Dales.

More than 4,000 people lodged objections to the original proposal, and there is now great anger and disappointment on the part of local people and environmental groups that fracking will proceed. This has set a dangerous precedent.

Each site in the Ryedale area could have 10 - 50 boreholes, each with a 120 foot drilling rig.

North Yorkshire anti-fracking campaigners have joined forces with FoE in the area to step up campaigning against the process. They have issued a 'people's declaration' stating why they are opposed to fracking and have requested support from different parts of the country.

Solar Energy

For the first time, more electricity was generated from solar panels than from coal-fired power stations in May. Solar generated an estimated 1,336 gigawatt hours - much more than the 893 GWh from coal. This information was available on the Carbon Brief website.

Several coal plants are out of action for planned maintenance and some have switched to partial bio-mass generation.

The Effects of Global Warming

In the US, a recent plan has been made by the federal government to resettle a Native American tribe before their Isle de Jean Charles home in Louisiana vanishes under water. NA communities in Alaska are also becoming climate refugees, with a price tag to move just one Inuit village, Shishmaref, estimated at \$180 million.

These subsistence cultures living near water often do little to contribute to climate change, and neither do many other coastal communities around the world that will suffer similar fates. Millions of people will have to leave their homes with an uncertain future and no place to welcome them.

Big Oil and Renewables

In recent weeks the world's largest oil companies have announced a series of 'green' investments - in wind farms, electric battery storage systems and carbon capture and storage [CCS]. These unexpected moves come hot on the heels of revelations by Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude oil exporter, that it plans to sell off parts of its national oil company and diversify its economy away from petroleum.

These decisions come in the aftermath of the UN climate change agreement and before the AGM meetings for Shell and Exxon Mobil, where shareholders will demand that more be done to tackle climate change.

This is welcome news and indicates that the fossil fuel industry is gradually becoming more aware of the dangers to its future, by moving towards a low carbon world.

Jo Johnson MP on Housing and Planning Bill

Judy Palmer recently wrote to her MP, Jo Johnson, to express her concerns about the Planning Bill. Here's his reply.

Thank you for writing to me about planning permission in principle.

While I appreciate your position, I believe that, contrary to your concern, the Housing and Planning Bill will actually ensure that local people become more involved in developments in their area.

Planning permission in principle and registers of brownfield land will ensure that development takes place on suitable sites more quickly. In addition, the Secretary of State will be able to prescribe criteria which land must meet for entry in the register.

The development order will set out the type and scope of development and the Bill will allow the Secretary of State to authorise a local planning authority to involve local people by carrying out a consultation in relation to entries in the register.

I also believe that the measures in the Bill on local plans will enable people to have more of a say on where developments should go in their area. A large proportion of councils have already published local plans, but fewer than two-thirds have fully adopted them. The Government is clear that if councils have not drawn up local plans by 2017, it will work with local people to produce one, giving them a greater say in how their area develops.

The pilot scheme will test the benefits of a planning application being processed by a designated person instead of the local planning authority, if the applicant so chooses. I would like to assure you that the democratic determination of planning applications by local planning authorities is a fundamental pillar of the planning system and the pilot scheme will not change this.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Dryhill and Preston Hill – *John Bassendine, Sevenoaks FoE writes:*

Dryhill Country Park, near Sundridge, and **Preston Hill**, near Eynsford, were named among five wildlife sites in Kent proposed for sale by Kent County Council - all five are now withdrawn from sale and will continue in ownership of KCC. These two sites are well worth a visit, especially at bluebell time (Dryhill) and orchid time (Preston Hill). Dryhill is also interesting geologically.

Preston Hill (Eynsford/Shoreham) ... is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and has great views across the countryside over the Darent Valley to Lullingstone Country Park to the west.

The area, set on top of a steep hill, is half grassland and half woodland and in the summer months is covered with wildflowers. A variety of butterflies including chalkhill blues and dark green

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Waste4Fuel site – What’s going on?

Below is an email sent at the beginning of June by the Environment Agency about the Waste for Fuel Site in Cornwall Drive, Orpington and gives an update of what the EA is doing.

We have continued collecting and monitoring air quality data since March 2015 in the Cornwall Drive area. The latest report has now been received after being independently collated and reviewed by both King’s College London and Public Health England.

I have attached a copy of the full report for your information but the headline is that “Daily concentrations recorded at Cornwall Drive have been below the London mean concentrations for much of this period and there has been no significant impact from air quality on the local residents.”

The risk from fire is still a known risk to air quality and we are continuing our daily inspections of the site with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to manage this risk and ensure the site is secure. Additionally, our air quality monitoring will carry on until the future of the site has been resolved.

You may have seen articles in the local media recently that negotiations are still continuing with both the London Borough of Bromley and the landowner to not only aim to clear the waste but to ensure that the land cannot be used as a waste operation again in the future.

Unfortunately we can only move as fast as the legal process will allow but I

can assure you we are doing all we can to ensure that these issues are resolved as quickly as possible but appreciate that the local community just want to see waste cleared.

As soon as there is any more information to share with you, I will be in touch. In the meantime, please feel free to share this information in the community.

Dryhill and Preston Hill, *continued*

... fritillaries can also be seen on the chalk grassland. The site is relatively rarely visited, and is something of a haven for adders and grass snakes.

The grassland is managed at certain times of the year by grazing the park’s own herd of feral goats, which came from the Great Orme, near Colwyn Bay in North Wales. To further encourage the growth of wildflowers coppicing and the management of the ride edges have also been carried out.

Part of the site was previously used as a Ministry of Defence firing range, the remnants of which can still be seen.

There are paths through the woodland at the top of the hill although they are steep in places and some have become overgrown, meaning the site is more suited to hardy walkers.

Dryhill (Riverhead)

Situated in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Dryhill is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
/continued on next page

WILPF ORPINGTON GARDEN PARTY

Saturday 16th July
2.00pm

At the home of Sheila Triggs: Tel 01689 837848
3 Derry Downs, St Mary Cray, BR5 4DT

Speaker:

MIA TAMARIN
at 2.30pm

**'The Israel/Palestine Conflict & Peace Activism –
Reflections of an Israeli Conscientious Objector'**

STALLS, RAFFLE & DELICIOUS TEAS

*Proceeds in support of WILPF's work
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*

Dryhill and Preston Hill, concluded

The exceptional structure of its rocks and fossils led to it becoming the first 'geological' Local Nature Reserve in Kent.

Originally a stone quarry, this closed in the 1950s and since then nature has reclaimed the site, creating woodlands that are ideal for picnics. Woodland and high rocky outcrops are all linked with a variety of paths to explore, and there are 2 open picnic areas in grassland surrounded by trees.

The rocks at Dryhill are of great research and educational value as

they allow geologists to understand the environmental conditions that existed during the Lower Cretaceous, an important part of our geological history. Exceptional rock formations exposed on the site called Hythe Beds are thought to have been deposited approximately 115 million years ago.

Dryhill is part of Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS), geological sites that are important for historical, scientific research or educational reasons. The Kent RIGS Group, English Nature and Local Authorities work together to protect and maintain them for these purposes.

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Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

Planning and development:

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Fracking / Clean British Energy

Ann Garrett

Bee Cause

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Monthly Meeting reporters:

John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,
Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and
Ray Watson

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

Reuser Column
Don't throw It away - Reuse It!

If you have any items to sell, or anything that you require, please send details to the Editor. Items will be displayed for three months, the number in brackets after an item indicating for how long it has appeared. Could you please contact us if an item has been sold/obtained, so that it can be removed from the newsletter?

Any donations to Bromley FoE generated from this column gratefully received!

Non-members' Section

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth, BFoE, then hello. We are an active local group affiliated to national Friends of the Earth concerned with promoting the understanding of environmental issues. We also campaign on these issues at a local, national and international level.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please contact either of our co-ordinators Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, and Bromley (that's towards the bottom of the High Street and on the right going south). If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

Membership Application/Renewal* Form (*please delete as appropriate.)

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, and Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my £8 annual subscription. I also enclose a donation (optional) of To help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

Do you have any hobbies or interests that may be of use to the group?

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